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## NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JOINS NEBRASKA VOLUNTEER SERVICE COMMISSION

The Nebraska Volunteer Service Commission (NVSC) would like to announce Barbara Wilson Thomas as its new full-time Executive Director. Thomas officially joined the NVSC August 28, 2006. She replaces Greg Donovan, who dutifully filled the role on an interim basis following the death of Debra Hartmann in April, 2006.

Barbara came to the Commission after seventeen years in the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, most recently serving as an Assistant Director in the Division of Behavioral Health Services since 1998. She brings a wealth of experience in the areas of state government, fiscal operations, federal grant management, public policy development, team building, personnel supervision, strategic planning, organizational development and political relations. Additionally, Barbara is an experienced volunteer manager, recruiter, board member and board developer. She is also experienced in marketing and program development.

Among Barb's aspirations as she begins her new position with the NVSC are (1) to build new and strengthen current partnerships to further the Commission's mission through expanded service programming of the Citizen Corps Councils and AmeriCorps Programs throughout Nebraska; (2) to communicate and market our successes so Nebraskans recognize the Commission and its statewide leadership; and (3) continue to develop the excellent team of Board members and staff that have directed the Commission to its current position as a leader of volunteerism in Nebraska.

The Nebraska Volunteer Service Commission was established by Governor Executive Order in 1994 to promote, mobilize, and support the efforts of all Nebraskans who are united in strengthening their communities, state and nation through volunteer and community service. It is funded by the federal Corporation for National and Community Service, the federal Department of Homeland Security through the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency and State General funds. A 23-member Governor-appointed Commission oversees the NVSC.

NVSC is responsible for support and oversight of (1) Nebraska's AmeriCorps State national service program; (2) the Citizen Corps State national disaster preparedness service program; (3) training and technical assistance to facilitate training, skill development, networking and learning opportunities for national service including persons with disabilities; (4) statewide volunteer recognition through the Governor's Points of Light Awards and First Lady's Awards for Outstanding Community Service; and (5) the annual Governor's Conference on Community Service for community, education, elected, volunteer and corporate leaders.

For more information about the Nebraska Volunteer Service Commission please visit <http://www.nvsc.ne.gov>.

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